



RFU

PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICANTS: Gunther FLATTINGER ET AL. - 1 PCT
SERIAL NO: 10/588,402 EXAMINER: Brian W. JENNISON
FILED: AUGUST 3, 2006 GROUP: 4184
FOR: WELDING TORCH WITH A TORCH HOUSING AND DRIVE FOR
WELDING ROD TRANSPORT

RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

MAIL STOP: AMENDMENT
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. BOX 1450
ALEXANDRIA, VA 22313-1450

Dear Commissioner:

In response to the Office Action dated December 31, 2008,
Applicants respectfully respond as follows:

An Election of Inventions begins on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks/Arguments begin on page 4 of this paper.

ELECTION OF INVENTION:

The Patent Examiner has required the selection of one of the following inventions for further prosecution:

Group I: Claims 51-89, drawn to that part of the torch housing (28) that is designed as a stator housing of the drive motor (33) of the drive unit (30), and that bearings (43, 44) for stabilizing and positioning a rotor (45) of the drive motor (33) are provided on the torch housing (28); and

Group II: Claims 90-100, drawn to a wire feed unit including a housing or base body respectively wherein a drive motor for feeding a welding wire is arranged.

ELECTION:

Applicants respectfully elect, with traverse, for further prosecution the invention of Group I, Claims 51-89, drawn to that part of the torch housing that is designed as a stator housing of the drive motor of the drive unit, and that bearings for

stabilizing and positioning a rotor of the drive motor are provided on the torch housing.